

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

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SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01 EB-08

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R 011613Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4373

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS NS

SUBJ: INCREASING VISIBILITY OF SURINAM COMMUNISTS

SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED A SERIES OF REPORTS FROM THIS EMBASSY DESCRIBING RECENT HIGHLY VISIBLE AND EXTENSIVELY PUBLICIZED ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY COMPETING LOCAL COMMUNIST GROUPS, SOMETIMES WITH THE ACTIVE COOPERATION OF COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS ABROAD. WE BELIEVE THIS IS NOT JUST A PASSING PHENOMENON BUT RATHER EVIDENCE OF A CONSCIOUS DECISION ON THE PART OF LOCAL COMMUNISTS TO RAISE THEIR POLITICAL PROFILE IN SURINAM AND DEMONSTRATE THE ADVANTAGES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS. EVEN SO, THE COMMUNIST CONNECTION WITH THESE ACTIVITIES IS OFTEN DOWNPLAYED OR IGNORED AND THE PRO-PEKING AND PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNIST GROUPS ARE STILL ONLY A RIPPLE ON THE SURFACE OF SURINAM'S POLITICAL WATERS. NO DIRECT RESPONSE ON OUR PART IS REQUIRED AT THIS TIME BEYOND REMAINING ALERT TO SIMILAR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS BEST AS WE CAN PUT TOGETHER FROM AVAILABLE PUBLIC EVIDENCE AND CONFIDENTIAL GOS SOURCES, THERE ARE TWO MAIN  
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GROUPS OF COMMUNISTS IN SURINAM: THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SURINAM (KPS)/MARXIST-LENINIST UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF HUMPHREY KEERVELD, MAOIST IN ORIENTATION, AND CONNECTED WITH SEVERAL LOCAL FRONT GROUPS SUCH AS THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S FRONT ALSO LED BY KEERVELD; AND DR. RUBIN LIE PAUW SAM'S PRO-MOSCOW PEOPLE'S PARTY, A RECENT ARRIVAL ON THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE WHICH INCLUDES A BROAD RANGE OF YOUNGER

SURINAM INTELLECTUALS AND PROFESSIONALS. IN SPITE OF OCCASIONAL EFFORTS BY THE KEERVELD GROUP TO MERGE WITH LIE PAUW SAM'S MOVEMENT, THE TWO PARTIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO WORK TOGETHER AND RAN SEPARATE UNSUCCESSFUL SLATES OF CANDIDATES IN THE OCTOBER 1977 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

2. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTED DIVISIONS WITHIN THE KEERVELD FACTION, WITH KEERVELD HIMSELF RUMORED TO BE INTERESTED IN COOPERATION WITH PRIME MINISTER ARRON'S NPK GOVERNMENT. A CLOSE ADVISER OF ARRON TOLD EMBOFF JUST AFTER LAST YEAR'S ELECTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT KNOWS THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COMMUNISTS AND COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS AMONG ITS RANKS, PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPMENT OFFICES, AND THAT THEIR LEADERSHIP HAD BEEN TOLD THAT ANY EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE THE SUCCESS OF SURINAM'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED AND INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED DISMISSED. KEERVELD, AT LEAST, SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN THIS MESSAGE, QUICKLY CONGRATULATED ARRON ON HIS VICTORY, HAS WORKED WITH ARRON'S SURINAM NATIONAL PARTY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT PARTIES TO PRESENT A SPECIAL SEMINAR ON MOBILIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT IN MARCH, AND HAS REPORTEDLY MAINTAINED HIS VIEWS IN SPITE OF DEFECTIONS FROM WITHIN HIS OWN FOLLOWING.

3. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN COMMUNISM HAVE INCLUDED THE ACTIVE EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE A SURINAM DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND THE WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS  
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TO BE HELD IN CUBA THIS SUMMER, INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE CCL-AND AIFLD-AFFILIATED LABOR FEDERATION "DE MOEDERBOND" IN EXPANDING ITS CONTACTS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST LABOR MOVEMENT, ATTENDANCE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF SURINAM'S LABOR MOVEMENT AT THE MOSCOW MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS AND TWO WOMEN DELEGATES AT A WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ALSO HELD IN MOSCOW, AND PLANS FOR SPORTS TEAMS FROM BOTH CUBA AND THE PRC TO VISIT SURINAM THIS YEAR.

4. TO SOME EXTENT, INCREASING VISIBILITY OF LOCAL COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS AND EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CONTACTS ARE A NATURAL PRODUCT OF SURINAM'S INDEPENDENCE AND ITS GENERALLY EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL TIES OF ALL SORTS. THE FACT THAT THE COMMUNIST CONNECTION IS GLOSSED OVER IN LOCAL PUBLICITY--WITH THE STRESS INSTEAD ON SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY AND FUNCTIONAL CONCERNS SUCH AS LABOR, YOUTH, OR WOMEN--INDICATES A RECOGNITION ON THE PART OF COMMUNIST-LED GROUPS THAT SURINAM'S LARGER SOCIETY HAS A BASICALLY MIDDLE-CLASS AND NON-CONFRONTATIONAL MENTALITY AND PERHAPS A FEAR OF ANYTHING ASSOCIATED WITH RADICALISM. NONETHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THOSE WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN CARRIED OUT WILL CONTINUE AND PERHAPS INCREASE

IN THE FUTURE AS LONG AS THE GROUPS CONCERNED STAY WITHIN THE ESTABLISHED RELATIVELY TOLERANT NORMS OF SURINAM'S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

5. THE EXTENT OF ANOTHER ELEMENT'S ROLE IN STIMULATING LOCAL COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IS NOT CLEARLY KNOWN, AND THAT WAS THE ARRIVAL OF A LARGE (FOR SURINAM) GROUP OF ABOUT 20 CHINESE (PRC) OFFICIALS TO MAN THE CHINESE EMBASSY WHICH OPENED IN PARAMARIBO A YEAR AGO. NO OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAVE RESIDENT EMBASSIES IN SURINAM AND ONLY SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANDREEV (BASED IN BOGOTA) REGULARLY VISITS A COUPLE OF TIMES A YEAR. THE CHINESE DIPLOMATS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE ON THE LOCAL SOCIAL SCENE, MIXING FREELY AND EASILY IN MANY DIFFERENT GROUPS, AND ARE GETTING AROUND TO INSPECT A NUMBER  
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OF SURINAM'S BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES. THERE ARE ALSO PLANS FOR A CHINESE TRADE AND CULTURE EXHIBIT TO BE HELD AT SURINAM'S LEADING CULTURAL CENTER LATER THIS YEAR, WHICH WILL BE THE FIRST MAJOR PUBLIC EVENT TO BE SPONSORED BY THE PRC EMBASSY. WITH A LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY AMOUNTING TO ABOUT TWO PER CENT OF SURINAM'S POPULATION, WITH BOTH DUTCH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY WITHIN THE EMBASSY, AND WITH SURINAM'S VERY OPEN SOCIETY, THE CHINESE ARE ABLE TO CUT QUITE A WIDE SWATH THROUGH SURINAM SOCIETY AND ARE ACTIVELY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.

6. COMMENT: THESE DEVELOPMENTS DO NOT CALL FOR ANY IMMEDIATE ACTION ON OUR PART, EXCEPT TO REMAIN ALERT TO SUCH ACTIVITIES AND NATURALLY TO COUNTER IN APPROPRIATE WAYS MISINFORMATION WHICH MAY BE CIRCULATED BY SUCH GROUPS ABOUT OUR POLICIES, CONDITIONS IN THE U.S., OR U.S. ACTIVITIES ABROAD. THE AVERAGE SURINAMER IS STILL VERY MUCH FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO WESTERN WAYS AND TO AMERICANS AND THE U.S. IN GENERAL, AND WILL SEE LITTLE ADVANTAGE IN WHAT THE RATHER MILD VERSION OF LOCAL COMMUNISM HAS TO OFFER, ESPECIALLY IF THE COMMUNIST GROUPS REMAIN DIVIDED. RATHER WE SHOULD CONTINUE OUR PREFERRED COURSE OF SEARCHING OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES OF INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN SURINAM AND THE U.S. AT ALL LEVELS, ESPECIALLY IN TRADE, TOURISM, INFORMATION AND ECONOMIC FIELDS AS WELL AS THROUGH COOPERATION IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA BY EXPLOITING AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS AND BY MAINTAINING A SYMPATHETIC BUT DISINTERESTED ATTITUDE IN CONDUCT OF OUR DAY-TO-DAY RELATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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